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RE: SB-889

To whom it may concern.

I, Jared Ross, am in favor of SB-889.

When a child has considered judgement, the child has ability to understand situations, the ability to reason, and understands right and wrong. Otherwise considered judgement would not be applied.

A subset of what my children have recently experienced:

- Children have been relocated twice within 1 year. (Each time against a court order: once during the trial, once immediately after the trial with no notification of said move per Maryland law)
- Children who were withheld from visitation during part of the pandemic (against the high court's March 25, 2020 statement)
- Children had to immediately live with a parent's paramour (against a court order)
- Children have expressed their views and feelings on events on a continual basis without wavering.

Their BIA has:

- Not objected to (or alerted) the court to the children's changes in residence nor expressed the kids' feelings and impacts on them.
- Not objected to (or alerted) the court to visitation withholding nor expressed the children's feelings and impacts on them.
- Not objected to (or alerted) the court to a paramour's living arrangement and impact as viewed by the children.

A child with considered judgement is heavily impacted by situations like these. The child knows something is "wrong" but don't have the ability to "speak" as a BIA can prevent or mute the child's views and feelings. The child is placed in a mental "pressure cooker." The person a child should trust becomes untrustworthy (BIA mentions not being trusted in their document to be removed from the case).

Each divorce has many positions and views. However, major issues and blatant disregard for law such as above, all children would be impacted. Children with considered judgment are more impacted as their ability to reason and understand gets pushed aside; even when there are basic/real grounds for their views and reactions.

Since a child with considered judgement is viewed differently in the court, the direct support for them should be different and aligned with their abilities.

Kids deserve a future as they are the future.

Jared Ross